

EXCESS U.S. DEATHS AFTER FUKUSHIMA RISE FROM 14,000 TO 22,000 AFTER ANALYSIS UPDATED

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The 2010-2011 change in reported U.S. deaths in the 14 weeks after fallout from the Fukushima nuclear meltdown arrived in this country is now estimated to be 21,851 deaths greater than expected, up from 13,983 originally estimated. The new figures were based on deaths for the entire years 2010 and 2011, which recently became available; earlier estimates were based on data for only part of 2011.

Joseph Mangano and Janette Sherman calculated the 2010-2011 increase in deaths in 122 U.S. cities for the period March 20 to June 25 to be +3.99%, vs. +0.73% for the rest of the year. Extrapolating this difference to the entire U.S. yields 21,851 excess deaths in these 14 weeks. Fukushima fallout arrived in the U.S. March 16, 2011.

The data is taken from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) weekly report on deaths for the 122 cities, about one-quarter of the U.S. Final statistics for 2010-2011 will not be public until late 2014. The new findings updates the article Mangano and Sherman published in the International Journal of Health Services in December 2011.

Other new findings include:

1. A similar pattern to U.S. deaths in the four months after Chernobyl (estimated excess over 20,000, final excess 16,573)
2. All age groups (<1, 1-24, 25-44, 45-64, 65+) had an excess number of deaths in the spring of 2011 vs. 2010
3. The highest percent excess deaths was for infants under age one, who are most susceptible to radiation exposure
4. A very large 2010-2011 increase in pneumonia/influenza deaths occurred after Fukushima (+11.49% in the spring vs. +1.55% for the rest of the year); this was the only cause of death given by the CDC
5. A very large 2010-2011 increase in total deaths occurred in Boise ID, where Fukushima exposures were probably higher than most of the U.S. (+22.68% in the spring vs. 5.71% for the rest of the year)

These findings raise concerns about potential health hazards from Fukushima. Mangano and Sherman urge that more studies be conducted on the topic.